DARK HORSE COMICS
30 YEARS
#4
THE MACHINES™
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ERIC NGUYEN
MICHAEL ATIYEH
Directive
GAMES

THE MACHINES™

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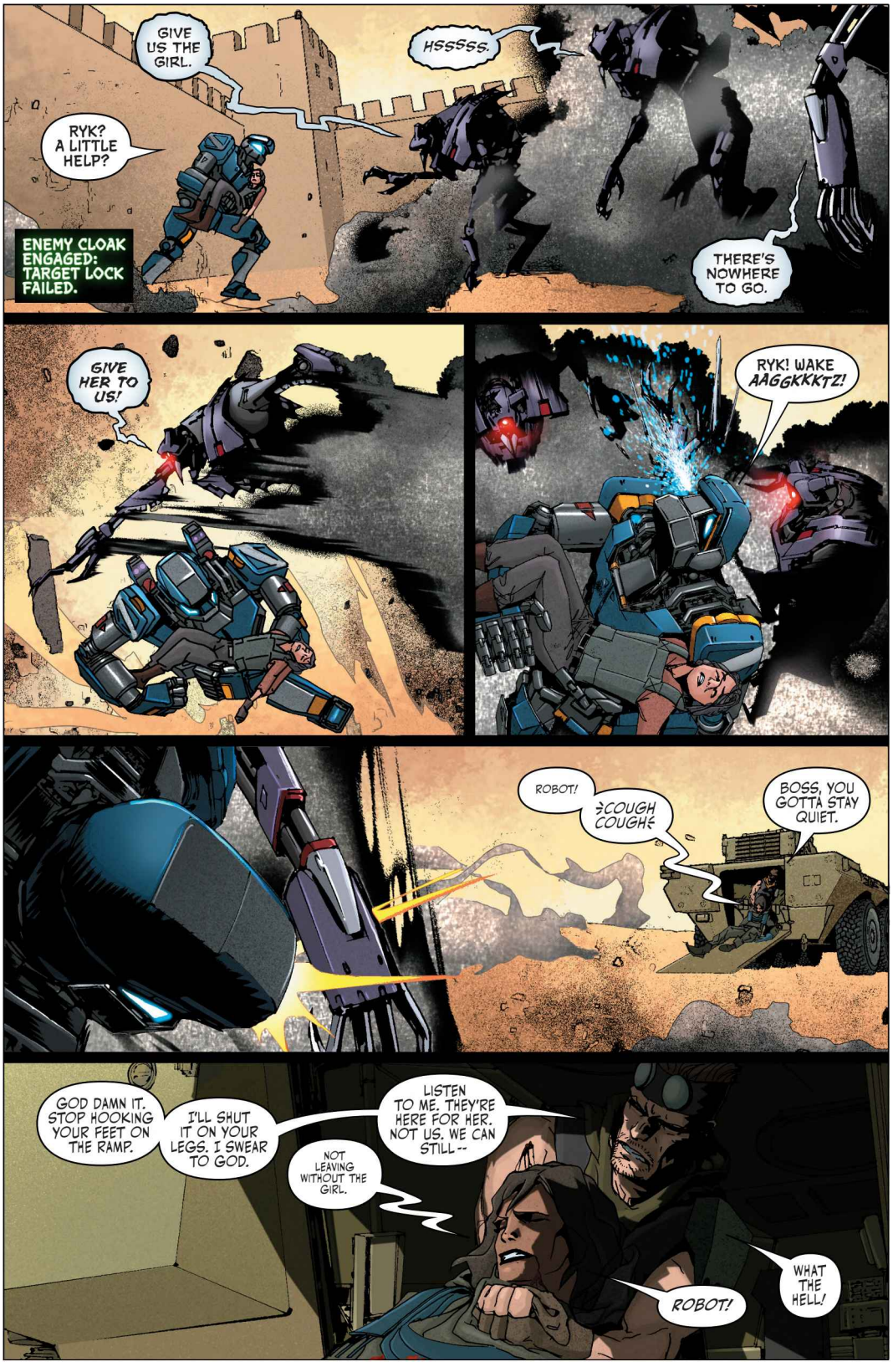
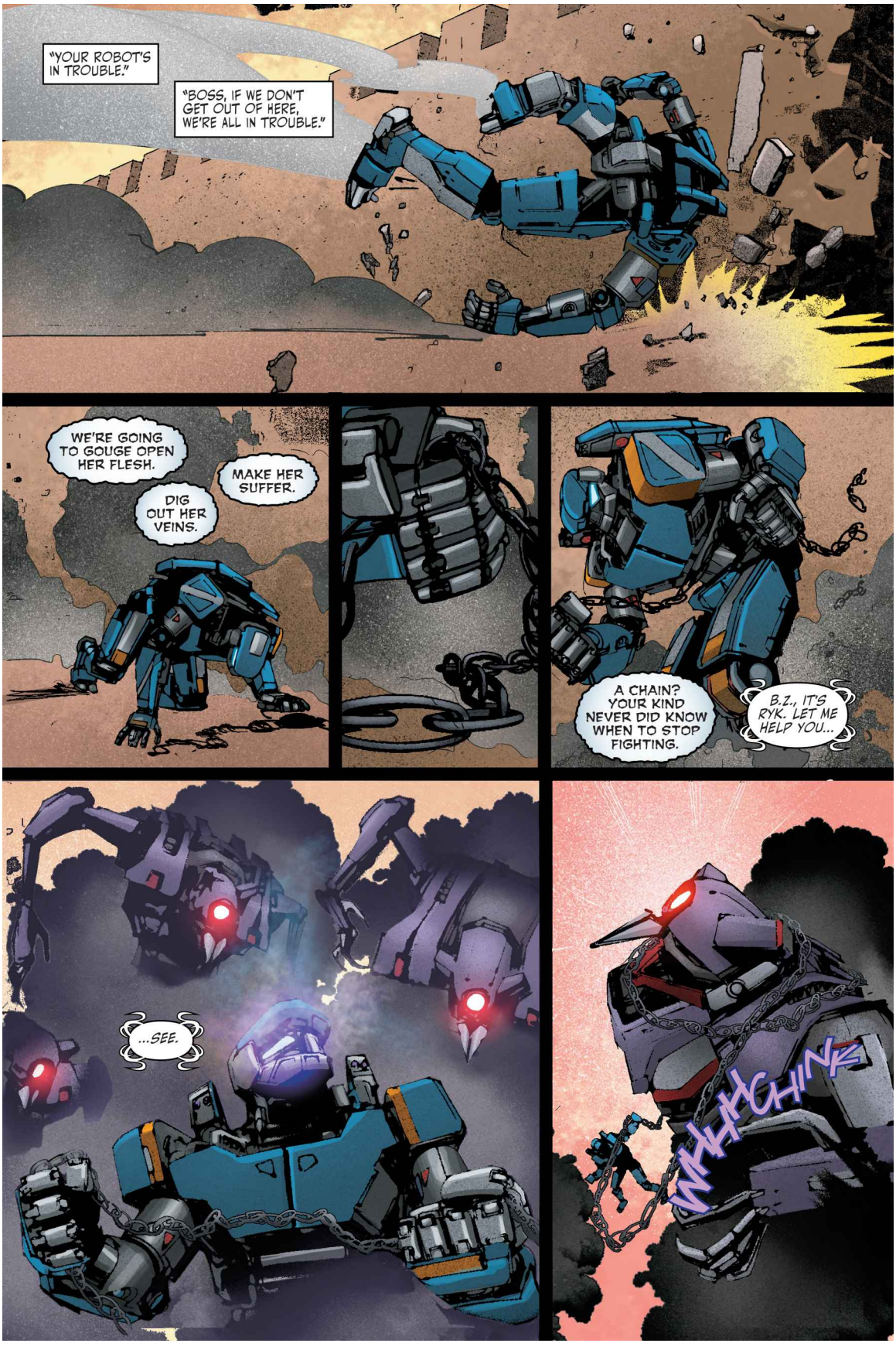

GIVE US THE GIRL.
HSSSSS.
RYK? A LITTLE HELP?
ENEMY CLOAK ENGAGED: TARGET LOCK FAILED.
THERE'S NOWHERE TO GO.
GIVE HER TO US!
RYK! WAKE AAGGKKKTZ!
ROBOT!
≥COUGH COUGH≤
BOSS, YOU GOTTA STAY QUIET.
GOD DAMN IT. STOP HOOKING YOUR FEET ON THE RAMP.
I'LL SHUT IT ON YOUR LEGS. I SWEAR TO GOD.
LISTEN TO ME. THEY'RE HERE FOR HER. NOT US. WE CAN STILL--
NOT LEAVING WITHOUT THE GIRL.
ROBOT!
WHAT THE HELL!

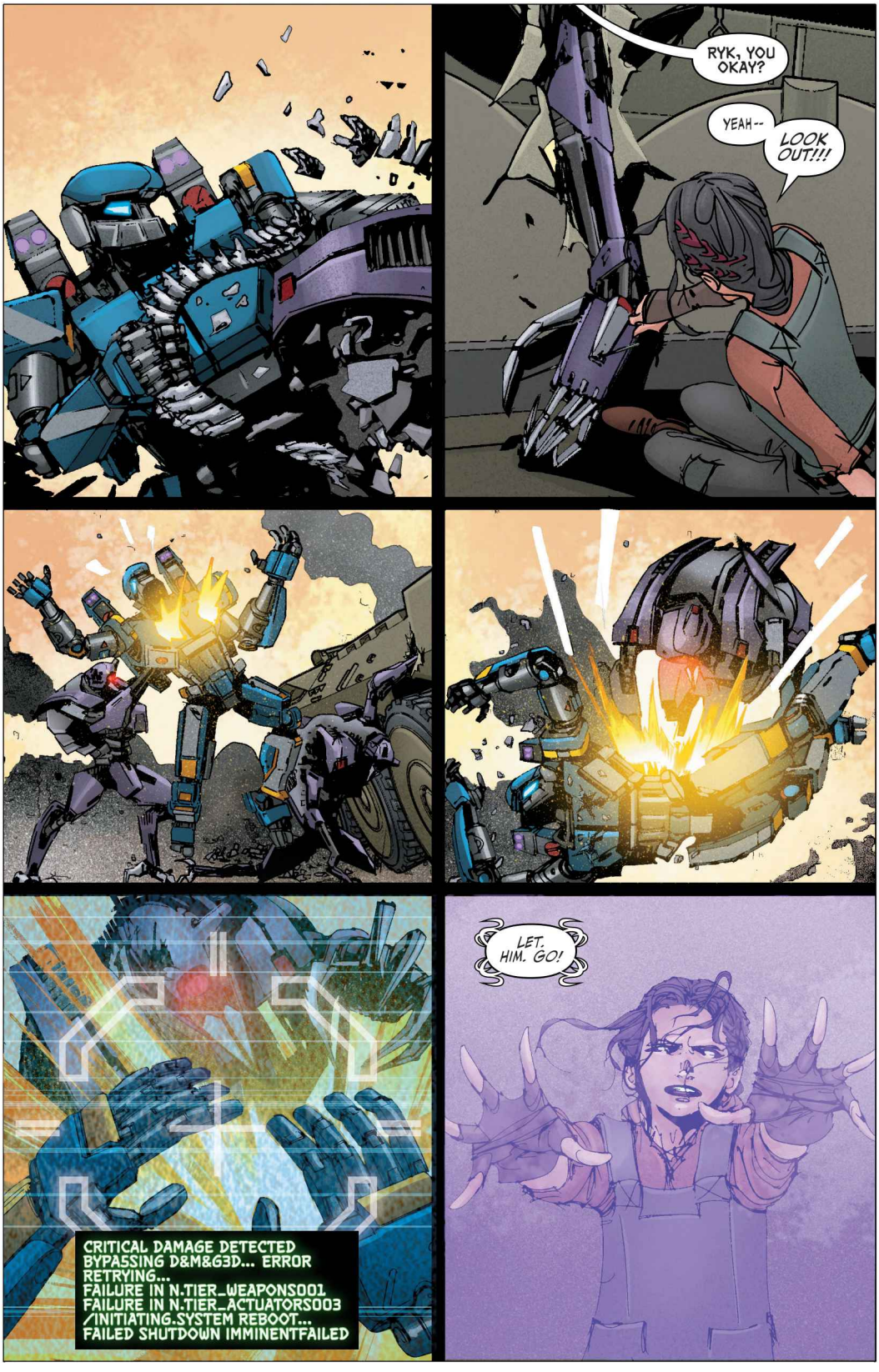
BRAVO! OVER HERE!
COUGH
OOF!
DAN! THE DOOR! I CAN'T REACH THE BUTTON!
CATCH HER!
DAN!
LOOK OUT!
DAN!
WOOSH
CLUNK
GAH!
THWIK
THWAK
THWAK
WHAM

VRRRRR VRRRR VRRR
FLICK FLICK FLICK
DAMN IT! WE'RE JAMMED INTO THE WALL.
>COUGH<... HELP ME...>COUGH COUGH< ...HELP ME WAKE HER UP.
BOSS, THOSE NEEDLES HAVE GOT TRANQUILIZER IN 'EM. SHE AIN'T MOVING.
>COUGH<... SORRY ABOUT THIS, KID.
AAAGH!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
KID...


"YOUR ROBOT'S IN TROUBLE."
"BOSS, IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF HERE, WE'RE ALL IN TROUBLE."
WE'RE GOING TO GOUGE OPEN HER FLESH.
MAKE HER SUFFER.
DIG OUT HER VEINS.
A CHAIN? YOUR KIND NEVER DID KNOW WHEN TO STOP FIGHTING.
B.Z., IT'S RYK. LET ME HELP YOU...
...SEE.
WHHHCHINK

HE CAN SEE US!
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
WE STILL OUTNUMBER HIM THREE TO--
BWHOOM

LOOK AT HIS EYES!
IT'S THE GIRL! STOP HER.
I'LL KILL BRAVO ZULU.
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THIS WILL HOLD ME?
WHAM
LONG ENOUGH.
SKREEE


RYK, YOU OKAY?
YEAH--
LOOK OUT!!!
CRITICAL DAMAGE DETECTED
BYPASSING D&M&G3D... ERROR
RETRYING...
FAILURE IN N.TIER_WEAPONS001
FAILURE IN N.TIER_ACTUATORS003
/INITIATING.SYSTEM REBOOT...
FAILED SHUTDOWN IMMINENTFAILED
LET. HIM. GO!

HSSSS.
I SAID, LET HIM GO!
IF YOU INSIST.
WHAM
CAN YOU SEE ME INSIDE THAT TINY MIND OF YOURS?

THUMP THUMP THUMP
VRRRR VRRR
TELL ME THAT SHOOK US LOOSE.
WE'RE STILL STUCK!
CAN YOU *FEEL* WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO TO YOU?
KID, IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!
I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH.
KID!
DYLAN, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME...
RYK...
I HAVE TO BREAK MY PROMISE.
DON'T...
I'M SORRY.

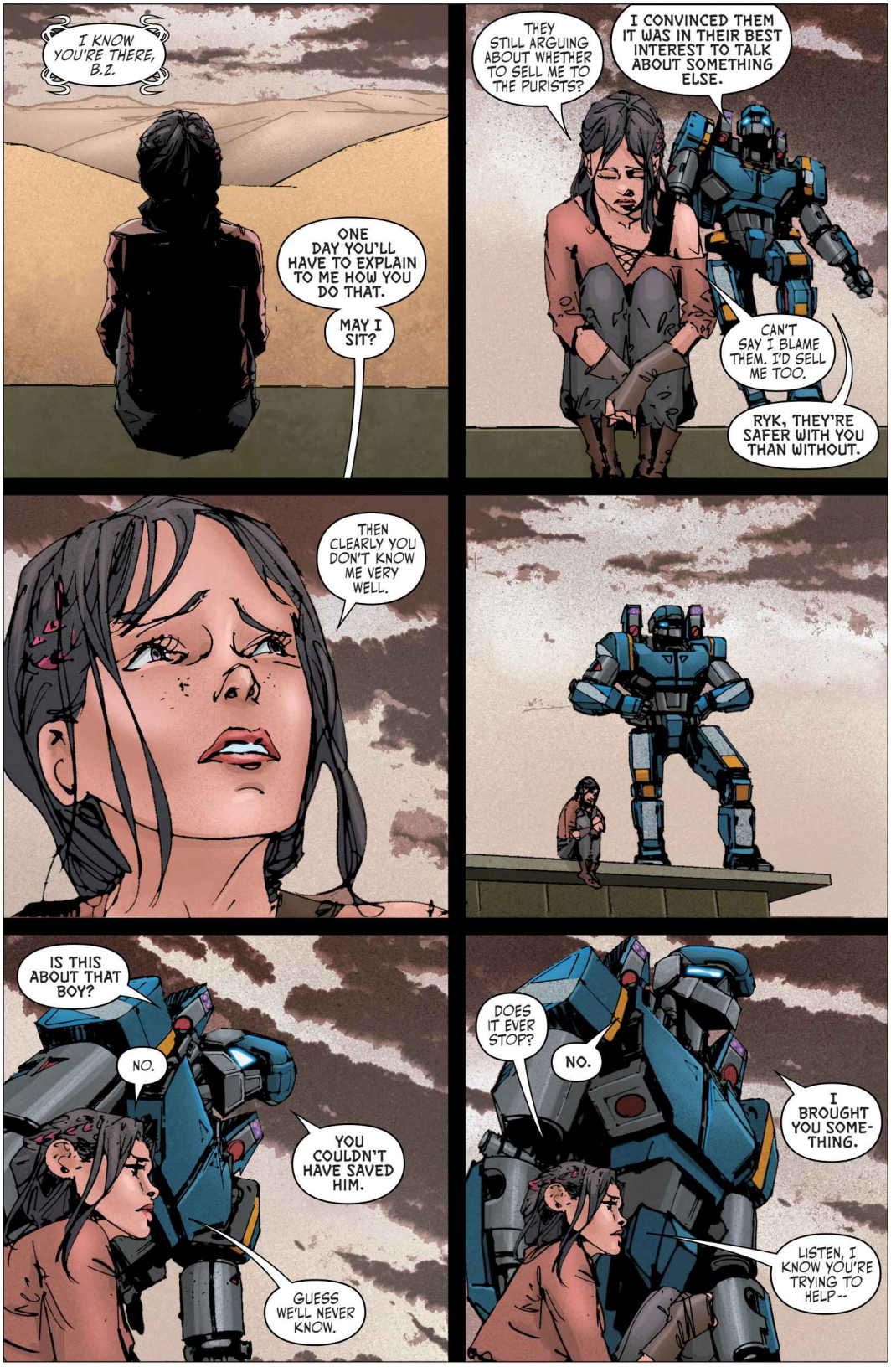
I'M SORRY.
I'M SO SORRY.
AHHHHHH!
GKKT!

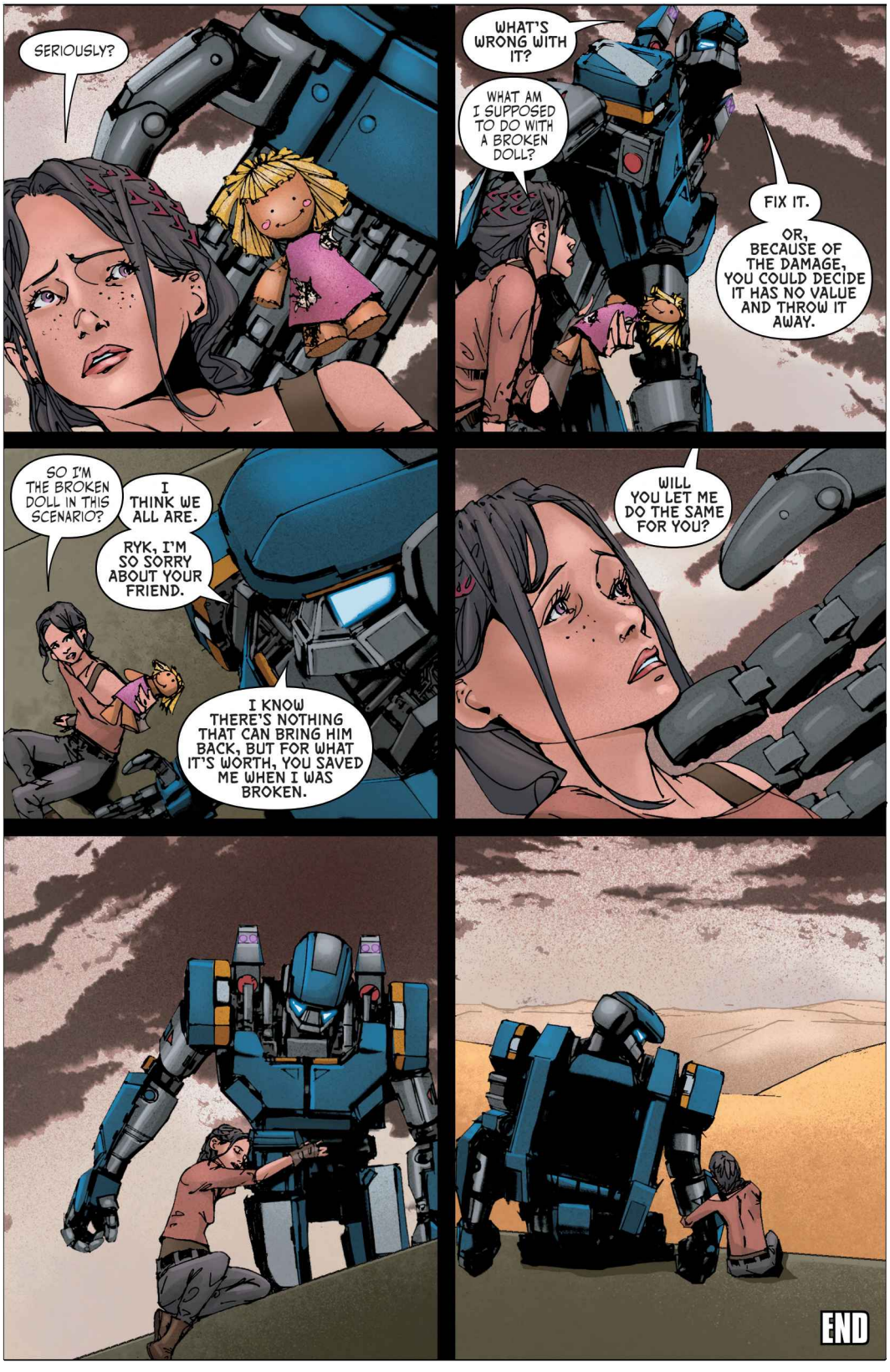
NO! NO!!!
HSSSSS!
THAT... ACTUALLY HURT.
THAT WAS NOTHING.
AHGKZT!

GKTTKTSSSSKT
HAKTZZKT... YOU'LL FIND NO SHELTER...
DO YOU HEAR ME, MEAT SACKS?! GKZZKT...WE'LL KILL EVERYONE WHO TAKES RYK IN!
CAN THE INQUISITOR SEE ME THROUGH YOUR EYES?
HE SEES EVERY--
BHWAM
YOU DID IT, KID! ȝCOUGH COUGH...ȼ
GET OUT OF MY A.P.C.
HANG ON. WE HAD A DEAL.

YEAH? GO ON. TELL ME WHAT A GREAT TEAM WE ARE. TELL ME HOW IT WAS ALL JUST BUSINESS.
NO? NOTHING?
GET ON THE GROUND!
ANY SLAVE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BE LEFT BEHIND, DIG THE A.P.C. LOOSE! THE REST OF YOU, GET BRAVO ZULU ON THE ROOF!
NOT YOU, WHIP-BOY. GET ON THE GROUND WITH YOUR NEW FRIENDS.
BUT--
KEEP PUSHING IT. JUST GIVE ME A REASON.
LATER...
YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING US HERE FOR TWO HOURS. SHE'S GOING TO BLEED OUT.
OH. THAT'S TERRIBLE.
THE A.P.C. IS LOOSE!
LET'S MOVE OUT!
SO YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE US HERE TO DIE?
ACTUALLY, I CALLED YOUR COMPETITORS.
IF YOU'RE LUCKY, THEY'LL THINK I WAS LYING. IF NOT...
ENJOY THOSE CHAINS.
THANK YOU FOR RESCUING--
PLEASE... LEAVE ME ALONE.

TERRA NOCTE: ABANDONED RESEARCH FACILITY
FOUR DAYS LATER
STEP AWAY FROM THE CONSOLE, MIA.
EVERYONE CALM DOWN. MIA, LISTEN TO REASON. WE'VE FOUND A SAFE HAVEN HERE.
WHICH WE'LL LOSE WHEN THE PURISTS COME LOOKING FOR RYK. YOU ALL HEARD WHAT IT SAID.
YOU GOING TO SHOOT ME, GERALT?
WE'D STILL BE IN CHAINS IF IT WASN'T FOR HER!
SO WHAT? I'M NOT--
MIA, DON'T TOUCH THAT BUTTON!
CLICK
DAMN YOU! TURN IT OFF!
INITIALIZING...
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
ASSESSING TARGETS.
TURN OFF THE ROBOT, MIA! OR I SWEAR TO GOD--
THREAT.
BRAVO ZULU, DON'T HURT HIM.
PLEASE.
WHERE IS RYK?


I KNOW YOU'RE THERE, B.Z.
ONE DAY YOU'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO ME HOW YOU DO THAT.
MAY I SIT?
THEY STILL ARGUING ABOUT WHETHER TO SELL ME TO THE PURISTS?
I CONVINCED THEM IT WAS IN THEIR BEST INTEREST TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.
CAN'T SAY I BLAME THEM. I'D SELL ME TOO.
RYK, THEY'RE SAFER WITH YOU THAN WITHOUT.
THEN CLEARLY YOU DON'T KNOW ME VERY WELL.
IS THIS ABOUT THAT BOY?
NO.
YOU COULDN'T HAVE SAVED HIM.
GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW.
DOES IT EVER STOP?
NO.
I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING.
LISTEN, I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP--


SERIOUSLY?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH A BROKEN DOLL?
FIX IT.
OR, BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE, YOU COULD DECIDE IT HAS NO VALUE AND THROW IT AWAY.
SO I'M THE BROKEN DOLL IN THIS SCENARIO?
I THINK WE ALL ARE.
RYK, I'M SO SORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND.
I KNOW THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN BRING HIM BACK, BUT FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, YOU SAVED ME WHEN I WAS BROKEN.
WILL YOU LET ME DO THE SAME FOR YOU?
END